



With the
Medical Officer
of Health's
Compliments.



Rockdale,
Clitheroe.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee of the Borough of Clitheroe.*

GENTLEMEN,

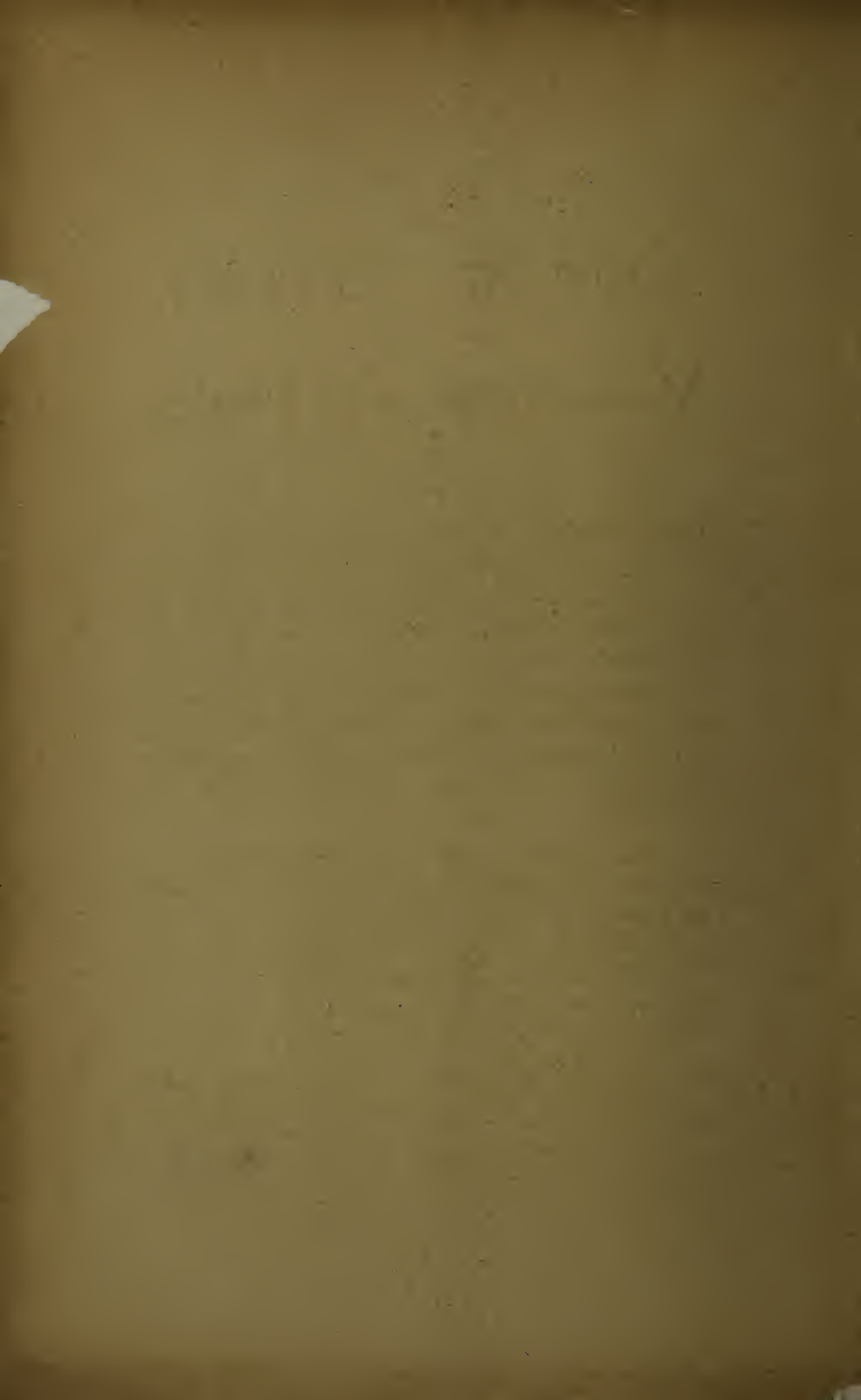
I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1915, and in explanation of the repetition therein of some details with which you are already familiar, I would remind you that the instructions of the Local Government Board to Medical Officers point out "that it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the County Council, as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances, etc., which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies."

Owing to your Medical Officer, Dr. Barker, having joined His Majesty's Forces you appointed me to act as his Deputy during his absence, and the following report, as you will be aware, refers to a considerable extent to the period previous to Dr. Barker's departure.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. T. LANCASTER.



CLITHEROE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
1915.

**Physical Features and General Character
of the District.**

The Borough of Clitheroe (in Latitude 53 52 30 N. and Longitude, 2 23 30 W.), is situated in the valley of the Ribble, in the north-easterly portion of the County of Lancashire, the river, which runs on the north-west and west sides of the town, forming the boundary at this point between the County of Lancashire, and the neighbouring West Riding of Yorkshire.

The various parts of the town are built on and about a ridge of Limestone Rock (the upper Geological Strata having at this point been denuded), at an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above sea level; Pendle Hill, with an elevation of 1,800 feet, being situated to the east of the town, a distance of about three miles.

The area of the Borough is 2,385 acres, some considerable portion of this being farm lands.

The number of inhabited houses at the Census of March, 1911, was 2,896, and the population

exactly 12,500, and with the exception of 42, all the above houses were then occupied.

For the purposes of this Report, with the exception of the calculation of the birth-rate, the population is estimated at 12,034; and at present the number of houses is calculated at 3,011, the number erected during 1915 having been 6, giving an average of 3.9 persons per house; but in this connection the large proportion of single houses quite incapable of accommodating that number of persons must be taken into consideration.

Through the kindness of the Rev. W. Sidgreaves, S.J., F.R.A.S., of Stonyhurst College Observatory, which lies about four miles to the south-west of the town, I am enabled to give the following Summary of Meteorological Observations for 1915, together with those for 1914:—

	1914	1915
Barometer, mean	29.452 in.	29.451 in.
Temperature, adopted mean	48.4	46.6
Mean Degree of Humidity (Sat. 100)	82	81
Total Rainfall	50.177 in.	43.837 in.
Greatest Monthly Rainfall	8.048 (Nov.)	7.525 (Dec.)
Least Monthly Rainfall	1.470 (Apr.)	0.777 (Sep.)
PREVAILING WINDS :—	No. of Days.	No. of Days.
North	38	70
North East	49	40
East	25	40
South East	15	9
South	39	26
South West	84	44
West	101	119
North West	15	17

It will be seen from the foregoing, that the Total Rainfall for 1915 was 6.34 inches less than that of 1914; also that there was a considerable preponderance during 1915 of Northerly and Easterly winds compared with 1914.

The principal industry of the town is Cotton weaving, whilst there are also Lime Quarries and Cement Works in the neighbourhood, and a Bleach Works was opened during 1914.

No trades regarded as especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

The town possesses no permanent Hospital for the treatment of medical or surgical cases, but considerable use continues to be made of the Blackburn Infirmary (ten miles distant), and of the Royal Infirmary and other Hospitals in Manchester, thirty miles away.

There is a Voluntary Hospital just outside the town, with an accommodation of 30 beds, for the treatment of wounded soldiers, and if, on the whole, the less serious cases have been drafted here, the work has been none the less valuable as relieving pressure on the larger centres.

The Assessable value of the Urban District is £47,460; its income from all sources, £29,349; expenditure on improvement works, £1,257; total expenditure (excluding Loans), £29,273.

The corresponding figures for the previous year (in the same order) were, £46,955; £30,419; £3,591; £30,848.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

This is from neighbouring upland sources, the works being the property of the Corporation, as is the greater portion of the gathering ground. The supply is always adequate, and of exceptional softness and purity, indeed, the town is extremely fortunate in this respect.

An analysis was procured of the water from a well in the dairy of Twin Brook Farm, and in this case the report was to the effect that the sample contained excessive amounts of ammonia-yielding compounds, nitrates, chlorides, etc., indicating some pollution, with consequent risk for domestic or dairy use. Steps are being taken to provide town's water to this farm.

Rivers and Streams.

The District is drained principally by the Mearley Brook, which runs through the town to join the Ribble. This brook receives the surface drainage from the town and the effluent from the new Bleach Works, but this is subjected to the necessary treatment by settling-tanks and percolating filters before entering the stream.

Sewage and Drainage.

The surface drainage, as above mentioned, is apart from the sewage system. The sewers are periodically flushed and adequately ventilated. The sewage is conveyed into settlement tanks, and the sludge from these removed on to the farm lands, the more liquid portions being passed into Bacteria Beds, and ultimately treated by broad land irrigation.

A further settling tank for use alternately with the present small tank, which receives Low Moor sewage, is desirable.

Closet Accommodation.

Further steps have been taken to displace the old tub system by water carriage, and 878 fresh-water closets, 20 latrines, and 1,517 slop-water closets are now in use. No slop-water closets have been added during 1915.

The above figures as compared with the previous year, show that 40 fresh-water closets have been installed during 1915 and of these 34 have been put into old property, and 6 into newly-erected houses.

1024 Excreta Pails now remain, this being a reduction of 34 upon the figures for 1914.

There are 14 midden privies within the Borough. These are in out-lying situations, or beyond the reach of our sewage system.

The following Tabular Statement shows the change made in closet accommodation during recent years:—

YEAR.	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Privies fixed to movable Receptacles ...	6	1	..	5	..	..	..	..
Privies with fixed Receptacles converted to Fresh W.C.'s ...	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Privies with fixed Receptacles converted to Waste W.C.'s ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Privies with movable Receptacles converted to Fresh W.C.'s	32	16	..	..	14	20	95	34
Privies with movable Receptacles converted to Waste W.C.'s	86	153	13	67	45	..	..	..

House Refuse.

This is deposited in tubs and removed by the Public Authority to tips outside the town. There is no Destructor.

With the further object of calling the attention of the public to the danger arising from flies, the following Circular was distributed to every house throughout the town in the month of May:—

“NOTICE re MATTER IN ASHTUBS.

“ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

“The Health Committee desire to call the
“attention of all householders to the dangerous and
“objectionable practice of depositing slopwater,
“animal and vegetable matter, rags, paper, etc., in
“ashtubs and ashpits.

“They wish to point out that ashtubs contain-
“ing such refuse, quickly become breeding-grounds
“for flies.

“It is now known that the presence of flies,
“in and about houses, is attended with great risk to
“the inmates owing to the possibility of food in-
“fection. Flies enter houses fresh from ashpits,
“privies, manure-heaps, and other accumulations of
“objectionable animal and vegetable matter, carry-
“ing on their feet all kinds of filth, which they
“deposit on food, with the result that persons may
“be constantly swallowing filth from such places.

“Moreover, the germs of Consumption,
“Typhoid Fever, and other Infectious Diseases may
“be transmitted from one person to another by
“means of such tainted food supplies.

“It should be pointed out that the above-
“mentioned danger is greatly magnified in houses
“where there are young children.

“ The Committee, therefore, earnestly request
 “ the general public to assist them in this matter,
 “ by refraining from depositing in ashtubs, matter
 “ of a putrescible nature, or anything likely to
 “ attract flies.”

Removal of Manure from Mews, etc.

In addition, in order to abate the nuisance arising from accumulations of manure, etc., on and about premises, and to prevent as far as possible, the propagation of flies during the Summer months, the Council have taken advantage of their powers under the Public Health Act, 1875, Section 50, requiring Horse-Manure, etc., to be removed at regular intervals of not more than 14 days, during the months of June, July, August and September, from all stables and other places where horses are kept.

For non-compliance with the requirements, 13 letters and 2 notices under Section 49, Public Health Act, 1875, were sent, but in no case did the necessity for further proceedings arise, the requirements of the Notice being fairly well carried out.

Fish Offal.

Owing to the serious nuisance arising when fish offal is kept on premises, even for a short time, especially during the summer months, and the difficulty experienced in getting such matters removed before they become a nuisance, the Council have provided facilities for the daily deposit in a central position, of such refuse, between the hours

of 7-0 a.m. and 9-0 a.m., the offal subsequently being removed forthwith by the Council's servants.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Information under this head will be found in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Schools and School Inspections.

The accommodation at present is for 2,344 scholars, whilst the number on the register for 1915 was 1,942, and the average attendance, 1,593.

The corresponding figures for 1914 were 2,024, and 1,680, the extent of the accommodation remaining the same.

There were no school closures during 1915, but the Infants' Department of the Catholic School and the Mixed Department of the Council School, owing to outbreaks of Scarlet Fever, were sprayed and fumigated.

The following were the figures for Infectious diseases amongst elementary school children during 1915:—

Measles, 4; Scarlet Fever, 44; Diphtheria, 2; Chicken Pox, 67; Whooping Cough, 62; and Mumps, 1.

The new Secondary School has been completed during the past year.

Milk Supply.

This is from local farms, none being imported. On the contrary, large quantities of milk are sent daily from Clitheroe and the neighbouring railway stations to some of the large manufacturing towns in Lancashire.

There are now 30 Registered Cowsheds in the Borough, in which at the last inspection 523 cows were being housed. These Cowsheds have each been visited at least three times, and in some cases more, during the year. They have been found to be kept, generally, in a fairly cleanly state, but in a considerable number of cases, the lighting and airspace have been found to be deficient. These deficiencies, however, have been brought to the notice of the Council, and were under consideration at the end of the year.

There are no Milk Shops on the Register.

Bakehouses.

These remain as last year, the number being 28, none of which are classed as "underground."

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Under this Act, 30 samples were purchased by the Police during the year, and forwarded to the Borough Analyst for investigation. The samples comprised 5 of Spirits, 9 of Milk, 12 of Butter, 2 of Cheese, 1 of Margarine, and 1 of Skimmed Milk.

Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all these samples.

Milk and Cream Regulations.

The following steps were taken :—

	Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preserva- tive.	Number in which the preservative was re- ported to be present.
Milk ...	9	0
Cream ..	..	0
Butter ..	12	0

Housing.

As mentioned in previous reports, the housing accommodation for the working classes is in great part satisfactory, but there remain a considerable number of dwellings which fail to reach a desirable standard and there are still 227 single and back-to-back houses in the town, none having been converted into double houses during the year.

Three cases of overcrowding were met with, and this was remedied in all cases. In two cases the occupiers moved to larger premises and in the third case, some of the inmates were moved to other houses.

6 houses were erected during 1915, and 15 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Housing Inspection.

Under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 291 houses have been inspected during the past year.

In 170 of these houses, defects were found to exist and notices and letters were accordingly served upon the owners, specifying the nature of the defects found, and calling on them to remedy these defects. In the case of 132 of these houses the defects had been remedied, or were in actual course of being remedied, at the close of the year, whilst in the remaining 38 houses in question the necessary repairs had not been carried out.

Two houses inspected during 1915 were considered to be in such a state as to be unfit for habitation. Closing orders were not made, the owners undertaking to close the houses voluntarily. These houses were accordingly closed.

The following is a Table, showing the number of houses inspected during 1915, with the number found in such a state as to be unfit for habitation, with the action taken:—

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected.....	291
Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	2
The number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2

The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders 2

The number of closing orders made Nil.

The number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders 132

The number of dwelling-houses, which, after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation Nil.

The following is a list, showing the character of the defects, in connection with which, notices and letters have been served, several defects sometimes occurring in the same house. The figures show the number of defects, which have or have not been remedied, as the case may be:—

Nature of Defects.	Remedied	
	or being Remedied.	Not Remedied.
Dilapidated house walls	7	2
Dilapidated bedroom floors	6	—
Dilapidated house floors	10	1
Defective roofs and eaves gutters .	36	7
Windows out of repair	31	—
Houses requiring Lime-washing ...	10	2
Damp house walls, and floors	30	41
Defective sink waste-pipes	7	2
Yards unflagged or badly paved ...	27	9
Dilapidated closet buildings	5	2
Defective chimney flues	2	—

Offensive Trades.

Detailed information under this head will be found in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 168 places in the Borough which come within the provisions of this Act, and these are regularly inspected.

It will be found from the Table on page 35, that no lists of out-workers have been received during the year, and no persons are known to have been so employed.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

During the year, the difficulties in connection with the new steam disinfecter have been overcome: a new vertical boiler has been installed with the result that the process of disinfection is now carried out in a highly satisfactory manner, and a considerable quantity of bedding from infected houses has been dealt with during the year.

Provision for Smallpox.

There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Infectious Disease in the Borough, beyond the joint Small-Pox Hospital, containing 8 beds, which, however, there has so far been no necessity to put into use.

In 1914 owing to representations from the Local Government Board, by Circular, arrangements were made whereby the necessary Nursing Staff,

bedding, furniture and utensils can be provided at a few hours' notice, should the necessity arise.

The arrangement continues in force with the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester, for the examination of Pathological Specimens, and the following is a statement of the Reports made during the year, a telegram being now received in all cases of Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever, reported upon as "positive":—

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS MADE
DURING THE YEAR 1915, FOR THE
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

Month.	Diphtheria.		Typhoid Fever		Human Tuberculosis Sputum	
	Total Exams.	Positive result.	Total Exams.	Positive result.	Total Exams.	Positive result.
January ..	1	0	0	0	2	1
February .	2	0	2	1	1	0
March	2	0	1	1	3	0
April	2	1	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	1	1
June	0	0	0	0	1	1
July	0	0	0	0	3	1
August ...	1	1	0	0	2	1
September	0	0	0	0	1	0
October ..	1	0	0	0	3	1
November.	0	0	0	0	1	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ..	9	2	3	2	18	6

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Reference to Table 2, page 26, will show that 106 cases of Infectious Disease (including all forms of Tuberculosis), were notified during the year, an increase of 62 upon the numbers for 1914.

Of these cases, 102 occurred in Clitheroe proper, and 4 (2 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 Scarlet Fever, 1 Erysipelas), in Low Moor.

In connection with all these reports of Infectious Disease, the most careful enquiries are directed towards an effort to discover the source of infection, but in many cases the conclusions arrived at are of necessity indefinite and unsatisfactory.

Typhoid Fever.

In regard to the three cases of Typhoid Fever, two followed on the eating of shell-fish, the original source of which could not be discovered. In the third case, the origin could not be traced.

Scarlet Fever.

In the early part of the year, there were a few sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever, but later, especially during the months of May, June and July, the numbers notified were considerably increased.

Concurrent with this increase, there was quite an epidemic of Sore-throat amongst school children.

In the great majority of cases, however, the Scarlet Fever was of an extremely mild type; so much so, that in many instances the first onset of the disease passed off without giving rise to any suspicion, to be discovered later when peeling commenced. Indeed it is very probable, cases such as these, remaining undiscovered for such a lengthy period were responsible for a large number of other cases.

Diphtheria.

There were 6 cases of Diphtheria during the year, occurring in each of the following months:—January, 1; February, 1; March, 1; June, 1; August, 1; December, 1. There was no connection between any of these cases, and their origin was very obscure.

A supply of Anti-toxin is available for immediate use at my Surgery and at the local Police Station.

Measles, Chicken Pox and Mumps.

In regard to the non-notifiable Infectious Diseases, such as Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps, etc., no figures are obtainable except in regard to Elementary School children, the School Attendance Officer supplying me, in my capacity of School Medical Officer, with a weekly Return of all Infectious cases, whether notifiable or non-notifiable.

From these lists I find that only 4 cases of Measles occurred among School Children during the

year. There were, however, 62 cases of Whooping Cough amongst School Children, and as will be seen from Table 3, the deaths of 5 children under 2 years of age, were caused by this disease.

The following Table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases at the various schools during 1915:—

SCHOOL.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Chicken Pox.	Whoop- Cough	M'mps
Church of England ..	..	10	1	7	13	..
Roman Catholic ..	1	16	..	5	10	..
Council	..	8	..	32	26	..
Low Moor ..	..	..	..	..	7	..
St. James's .	3	10	1	23	6	1
Totals	4	44	2	67	62	1

A statement of the Bacteriological investigation made by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester with a view to aiding the early diagnosis of Infectious Diseases is shown on page 17.

In accordance with the directions of the Board as to the desirability of co-operation between Civil and Military Sanitary services, the Medical Officer responsible for the health of the troops stationed in this district has been kept informed as to all cases of infectious disease occurring in the Borough.

Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.

Notification was received in respect of 32 cases of Tuberculosis, 29 of these being Pulmonary, and 3 non-Pulmonary.

In 1914 the corresponding figures were 22. (16 and 6).

In all cases the homes of the patients are visited forthwith, and the necessary enquiries made, and advice given, leaflets of instruction being also given with a view to the education of the patient in regard to the removal of unfavourable conditions, and the prevention of the spread of infection.

In all, 93 visits were paid in connection with these cases. As an aid to the diagnosis of doubtful cases, 18 specimens of sputum have been reported upon during the year by the Laboratory in Manchester, the report being positive in 6 instances.

20 houses with bedding, etc., have been disinfected after the death, change of address, or removal to a Sanatorium of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND INFANCY.

Information in regard to these matter will be found under Infant Mortality, on pages 29 to 32.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

225 Births were registered as belonging to the district during the year, of which 111 were males and 114 females.

Owing to considerable migration, due to the war, of persons who formerly resided in the Borough(and the difficulty in formulating reliable birth-rates on the basis of the present estimated population, (which is 12,034); the Registrar General has issued suggestions to Local Authorities to the effect that for the purposes of Annual Reports, the birth-rates for 1915 should be based on the estimated population for 1914.

The estimated population of the Borough for 1914 was 12,850 and the birth-rate calculated on these figures is 17.5.

This rate is 2.8 below the figures for the previous year and is the lowest of which I have any record.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths registered as having actually occurred within the district during 1915 was 171 and deducting from this number the deaths of 5 non-residents, and adding the deaths of 14 residents which occurred in Public Institutions outside the

TABLE A.

Comparative Table showing the causes of all Deaths in Clitheroe,
from 1906 to 1915.

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Enteric Fever.....	1	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	1
Measles	1	3	...	1	...	6	2	2	1	..
Scarlet Fever	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	3	3	...	3	2	...	1	...	...	5
Diphtheria and Croup	1	1	...	1	...	3	1	...	1	..
Influenza	2	1	6	7	2	1	...	1	1	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).....	11	12	10	16	14	13	16	12	7	13
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	1	6	7	11	4	6	7	1	2	..
Cancer, malignant disease	13	13	17	13	20	12	9	22	4	15
Organic Heart Disease.....	14	14	15	15	10	*	16	21	14	20
Bronchitis.....	16	13	10	14	17	12	7	17	14	20
Pneumonia (all forms).....	8	7	8	11	6	5	7	16	12	12
Other diseases of respiratory organs.....	...	...	2	...	...	3	...	1	1	4
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	9	6	16	4	5	17	4	9	5	2
Cirrhosis of Liver and Alcoholism.....	3	4	1	3	...	1	2	1	...	..
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Par- turition	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	..
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, including Premature Birth	13	17	11	8	12	14	11	11	12	6
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	3	3	2	6	3	1	5	2	4	7
Suicide.....	3	2	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	..
All other Causes	71	60	58	56	61	88	74	95	71	74
Totals.....	177	167	166	177	158	184	165	214	52	180

* Heart affections were not separately classified in this year.

district, we get a total of 180 deaths actually belonging to the Borough, and this number is equal to a death-rate of 14.9 per 1,000, of the population.

This figure is 3.1 above the rate for 1914, and 1.2 above the average for the 5 years 1910 to 1914 inclusive.

In the last Annual Report a Comparative Table (Table A), classifying the causes of death for the previous ten years, was introduced and I reproduce this on page 23 of the present Report.

Reference to this will show that as compared with 1914, the present year (1915) shows a diminution in the number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, whilst increases are shown in Bronchitis, Heart Disease, Cancer, and Phthisis; the figures for Pneumonia remaining the same.

13 deaths occurred from Phthisis in 1915, as compared with 7 during 1914, and an average of 12.3 for the previous ten years.

The most notable increase is in the deaths from Cancer; 15 deaths from this disease having occurred during 1915 as compared with 4 for 1914.

This, however, is not quite so alarming as would at first appear for it must be pointed out, that the figures for last year in this connection, constituted a record, and that the average number of deaths for the past ten years is 13.8.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un. corrected Number.	Nett.		Number. *	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.					Number. *	Rate per 1000 Nett Births		
												Number. *
1	2	3	4	† 5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	12400	264	264	21.2	164	13.2	13	7	22	83	158	12.7
1911	12500	286	286	22.8	186	14.8	9	7	44	153	184	14.7
1912	12700	255	255	20	166	13	7	6	24	94	165	12.9
1913	12800	277	276	21.5	217	16.9	12	9	27	97	214	16.7
1914	12850	261	261	20.3	151	11.7	10	11	28	107	152	11.7
1915	12034	225	111 M 114 F	17.5	171	14.2	5	14	20	88	89 M 91 F	14.9

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Birth Rate calculated on estimated population for 1914.

TABLE II.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	65 and up-wards.	Clitheroe Proper.	Low Moor.
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (Plague) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	6	..	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	6	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	57	..	10	44	2	1	..	..	..	..
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	29	..	..	..	9	14	6	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	3	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	106	..	13	49	14	20	10	..	..	..

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institu- tions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes {Certified {Uncertified ..	178 2	20 ..	9 ..	3 ..	5 ..	5 ..	20 ..	49 ..	69 ..	29 ..
Enteric Fever.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	5	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	13	..	..	..	..	1	7	5	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease.	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	11	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease....	20	..	..	..	2	..	1	8	9	..
Bronchitis.....	20	2	4	..	1	..	..	4	9	..
Pneumonia (all forms)....	12	3	1	..	..	..	..	5	3	..
Other diseases of respira- tory organs.....	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis & Typhlitis ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9	..
Puerperal Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide	7	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	1	..
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	54	4	1	..	1	..	9	14	25	..
Diseases ill defined or unknown	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals.....	180	20	8	3	4	3	19	52	71	..

Infant Mortality.

20 deaths occurred during the year of infants under 1 year of age, and this is equal to a rate of 88, estimated on the number of births registered. This is a decrease of (19 per 1,000 births) on the figures for 1914 and it is a decrease of 18 upon the average of the previous five years (106).

The figures for 1915 and for the five years, 1910—1915 must be regarded as satisfactory when compared with former quinquennial periods, for the Infant Mortality Rate was 119 for the period 1904—1908; and it was 142 for the period, 1899—1903.

These figures show that improved standards of sanitation, and the education of parents in infant feeding and infant management, by Health Visitors, to which a large impetus was given by the introduction of the Early Notification of Births Act, have done much to stem what can only be regarded as an appalling wastage of child life, for it is beyond question that many infantile deaths are due to causes which are strictly speaking, preventable, such for instance as Infectious Diseases, Chest Affections and Diarrhœa. These are causes which operate largely in the second six months of infancy (from 6—12 months), and with the continued and possibly more active application of methods already in use, we may hope for a further diminution in deaths from these affections.

Even so, there would still remain a considerable percentage of infantile deaths, which occur in

the earliest months (or weeks) of infancy, and with which our present methods have signally failed to cope.

If we now turn to our local Infant Mortality Statistics for 1915 (See Table 4, page 28), we find that of the 20 deaths occurring in children under 1 year of age, 8 occurred during the first month of life, and that of these 8 deaths, 5 were probably due to causes operating before birth. That is to say, a considerable portion of our infantile death-rate during 1915 was attributable to causes the rectification of which is at present largely beyond our reach.

In this connection, it is expected that the establishment of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, where expectant mothers can receive such advice and assistance as will enable them as far as is possible to ensure their offspring a fair start in life; will exercise a great influence in minimising this type of infantile mortality.

The Council have had before them for consideration, the Circular and Memorandum issued by the Local Government Board in 1914, with reference to Maternity and Child Welfare; copies of which were included in the Report for 1914.

The Council, however, in October, 1915, decided to postpone any action in the matter for three months.

In the early part of the year a number of expectant mothers, and mothers of young children,

who were in poor circumstances, were supplied with free dinners from the canteen, which was maintained by a private donor for the provision of meals for necessitous school children.

On March 25th, however, it was deemed advisable to close the Canteen.

The Council Nurse paid home visits to such expectant mothers as came within her knowledge (all possible enquiries having been made to gain that knowledge), giving them advice and assistance suited to their needs.

Although some good must result from such measures, it is evident that more extended work in this connection is necessary in the campaign for the reduction of infantile mortality.

Reverting to the subject of the work done under the Early Notification of Births Act, which was adopted by the Council in 1909, I may say that of the 225 births registered during 1915, Early Notification was received in the case of 185 or 82.2 per cent. of the whole, whilst in 1914 the percentage of notifications received was only 70.

The deficiency in the notification of births during 1914 was brought to the notice of the Council and in July, 1915, the Council decided that a Notice be inserted in the local papers calling attention to the provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 1907,

and stating that the Council intended to take proceedings in cases of default, and further that a copy of the said Notice be forwarded to the Medical Practitioners and to Midwives practising in the Borough.

In August, Nurse Newman who was in 1914 appointed whole-time Council Nurse, resigned.

In November the present Nurse (Nurse Hopson) was appointed, her duties, as before, to include School Work, Early Notification Work, and General Health Visiting, at a salary of £80 per year with free uniform.

Zymotic Death Rate.

During the year 9 deaths were referable to the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz:—Smallpox; Scarlet Fever; Diphtheria and Membranous Croup; Fever—Typhus, Typhoid, and Continued; Measles; Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa; these deaths being comprised as follows:—Scarlet Fever, 1; Diarrhœa, 2; Enteric Fever, 1; and Whooping Cough, 5.

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of .74; figures which are .12 above those for 1914, whilst the average Rate for the previous ten years (1904—1913 inclusive) was .91.

Phthisis.

13 deaths occurred during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis), giving a rate of 1.08.

This is a considerable increase on the rate for 1914, which was only .54. It should be pointed out, however, that the Tubercular rate for Clitheroe, last year, was the lowest of which there is any record, being only one half the average for the ten preceding years.



Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	49	2	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	126	6	..
Workplaces	30	..	..
Total	205	8	..

2.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Spect'r	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances... ..	6	6	..	..
Sanitary accommodation	{ insufficient	..	..	..
	{ defective	2	2	..
	{ not separate for sexes	..	..	..
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	5	6	..	..
Other offences	..	..	..	..
Total	13	14	..	..

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.					Number of Inspections of Outworkers premises.
	Twice in the year.			Addresses of Outworkers Received from other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	
	Lists.	Outworkers.				
		Contractors.	Workmen			
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. (2) cleaning and washing Lace, lace curtains and nets Furniture and upholstery Fur pulling Umbrellas.. Paper Bags and Boxes Brush Making Stuffed Toys File Making Electro Plate Cables and Chains Anchors and Grapnels Cart Gear.. Locks, Latches and Keys						

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Inspector of Nuisances,
FOR THE YEAR 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1915.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 74 cases of the ordinary Infectious Diseases and 32 cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

On the termination of the ordinary Infectious cases, 56 houses were disinfected.

After the death, change of address, or removal to a Sanatorium, of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, 20 houses were disinfected.

During the year 82 beds, 112 pillows, 9 suits of clothing, and 150 sundries have been disinfected at the Steam Disinfector.

In all infected houses, the rooms are fumigated with Formaldehyde, and disinfectants are left for

the further washing down and cleansing, and all books which have been borrowed from the Public Library, are fumigated before being returned to the Library.

60 Gallons of Izal have been left at houses where Infectious Diseases have occurred, and at houses where there are persons suffering from Tuberculosis a constant supply is maintained.

140 Gallons of Liquid Disinfectant and 20 cwt. of Disinfectant Powder have been distributed to the different Mills and Workshops, and the General Public.

The Infants' Department of the Catholic School and the Mixed Department of the Council School, owing to outbreaks of Scarlet Fever, were sprayed and fumigated.

Complaints.

74 Complaints were received during the year. These were promptly investigated and the necessary steps taken for the abatement of nuisances, or the removal of insanitary conditions.

The following is a Summary of visits, etc., made during the year:—

House to House Inspections	291
House to House Re-inspections	718
Other House Inspections	90
Factory and Workshops Inspections	150
Slaughter-house Inspections	149
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	115

Common Lodging House Inspections	48
Inhabited Vans	36
Visits to Infected Houses	93
Visits re Complaints	82
Visits re Work in Progress	198
Drains tested by Smoke	9
Miscellaneous visits	0
Preliminary Notices served	158
Statutory Notices served	6

The following is a list of the works carried out in the abatement of Nuisances:—

Choked drains	29
Defective drains repaired	5
Defective slopwater closets	31
Defective sink waste pipes	11
Defective eaves, gutters and downspouts ...	13
Yards badly paved	4
Houses overcrowded	3
Premises limewashed	17
Defective floors	8
Dirty closets cleansed	10
Dirty yards cleansed	6
Accumulation of manure removed	15
Defective roofs repaired	5
Dilapidated house walls	8
Damp house walls and floors	5

Common Lodging-Houses.

There is one Common Lodging House in the Borough. This is owned by a company, with a manager in charge.

There is accommodation for 256 persons, including 243 single beds for males, 10 beds in married quarters, and 3 single beds for females.

There are also furnished apartments for 24 persons. The house has been visited frequently by myself and also by the police, under whose supervision the premises are registered. There have been no serious contraventions of the Bye-Laws, and the premises have been fairly well kept.

1 case of Typhoid Fever was reported in one of the furnished rooms during the year.

Slaughter-houses.

In addition to the four Slaughter-houses at the Public Abattoirs, there are five Registered Slaughter-houses used for the slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption.

Frequent visits have been made to these slaughter-houses, and during the year the carcase of one heifer, and 90 lbs. of beef (pieces) were condemned as unfit for food. The quality of the meat on the whole, however, reaches a very high standard.

4 Notices were served on occupiers, viz:—2 for limewashing of premises, and 2 for illegal use of buildings for slaughtering.

Bakehouses.

There are still 28 Bakehouses on the Register, none of which are underground.

These have been frequently visited and 5 notices were issued requiring bakehouses to be lime-washed, 2 to repair leaky roofs and dilapidated ceiling, 1 to repair bakehouse floor and surface of yard near bakehouse.

The cleanliness of these premises is very satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

There is only 1 place (in the Salford district) where the business of Tripe Boiling is carried on, one having been transferred to premises outside the Borough during the year.

The requirements of the Bye-Laws made with respect to Offensive Trades, have on the whole been fairly well carried out.

Smoke Observations.

11 Smoke Observations, each of one hour's duration, were made of the various mill chimneys, etc., in the Borough.

In none of the observations was black smoke emitted for a longer period than four minutes.

There is no time limit in force.

House Refuse.

House refuse is deposited in covered ashtubs, the contents of which are removed fortnightly. There are also a few dry ashpits, but these are abolished and ashtubs installed where possible. The character of the house refuse, however, leaves much

to be desired, householders in many cases, being apparently indifferent to the menace arising from ashtubs, in which decomposing animal and vegetable matter have been deposited.

In May a Notice was issued by the Medical Officer of Health, a copy of which was delivered to every house in the Borough, calling the attention of householders to the danger arising from ash receptacles containing decomposing matter, especially during the summer months, and suggesting that where possible such matters should be burnt or otherwise destroyed. For some time there was considerable improvement, but this improvement has not been maintained.

There are 2,866 ashtubs and 1,024 excreta pails in use in the Borough.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of house refuse, nightsoil, etc:—

House refuse removed from houses and taken to tips at Harehill and Henthorn	2209 loads.
Nightsoil taken from pail closets and placed in Sewer	867 drags.

Total..... 3076

268 defective ashtubs and 240 defective excreta pails have been replaced during the year.

Periodical Removal of Manure, etc.

It was found necessary to issue 13 letters and 2 notices under Section 49 Public Health Act, 1875, requiring the periodical removal of manure at intervals of not more than 14 days. These notices were all complied with.

Fish Offal.

The fish offal from the local fishmongers is deposited daily in a drag in the Gas Works between the hours of 7-0 a.m. and 9-0 a.m. and is afterwards removed by the Council's servants.

2 Notices were sent to fishmongers to remove accumulations of fish offal and vegetable matter from their premises. These were complied with.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 30 Registered Cowsheds in the Borough, with accommodation for about 523 Cattle.

6 Notices were issued requiring Cowsheds to be limewashed and these were complied with.

In a considerable number of cases, the lighting, ventilation, and airspace of these Cowsheds leaves much to be desired.

The deficiencies in these respects have been brought to the notice of the Council, and at the close of the year were under consideration.

Milk-Shops.

There are no Milkshops on the Register, and I am not aware of any premises being used for such purposes.

Inhabited Vans.

A number of inhabited Vans visit the town, especially at Fair times, though some of these remain for longer periods, and are all situated in the Cattle Market.

36 Visits were paid to these Vans but in no case was overcrowding found, and taken on the whole they were found to be kept very clean.

There were no cases of Infectious Diseases among these Van-dwellers notified.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 65 Factories and 76 Registered Workshops together with 29 Work-places in the Borough, making a total of 170 premises which come within the scope of the Factories and Workshops' Act, 1901.

2 Notices of occupation have been received and the address of one workshop added to the Register.

No lists of out-workers have been received during the year, and I am not aware that there are any out-workers in the Borough.

8 Notices were issued during the year, 2 for Factories and 6 for Workshops. These have all been complied with. The defects met with were as follows:—

Factories—

Defective W.C. flushing fittings.
Choked W.C. drains.

Workshops—

Leaky state of roof.
W.C. drains choked.
Yard surface in bad repair.

Bakehouses—

Requiring limewashing.
Defective floor.

Water Samples.

One sample of domestic drinking water has been obtained and submitted to the Borough Analyst for analysis.

The Analyst's report showed that the water was slightly polluted.

Arrangements, however, have been made whereby the town's water will be laid on at an early date

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BOLTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

